

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET 1976-77

REF: ROME 16095

1. USDEL SHOULD PURSUE REDUCTION OF BUDGET LEVEL WITH
OTHER AMENABLE DELEGATIONS AS SUGGESTED IN OPTION B BUT
SHOULD RAISE ITS SIGHTS TO A REDUCTION TO A LEVEL OF \$155
MILLION AT 670/1 RATIO. USDEL MAY USE SPECIFIC INSTANCES
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OF NEEDED REDUCTIONS WHICH IT KNOWS OF AND MAY LEAN

HEAVILY UPON INSISTENCE OF SECRETARIAT ON ADDING NEW PROGRAMS GROWING OUT OF WF CONFERENCE WITHOUT MEANINGFUL RESPONSE TO REPEATED REQUESTS TO REDUCE PROGRAMS OF LOWER PRIORITY. IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THE ONLY WAY TO FORCE SECRETARIAT TO CONSIDER PRIORITIES IS TO REDUCE BUDGET LEVEL. YOU MAY EXPLAIN THAT INCREASE OF 50 PERCENT OR MORE OVER PRESENT BUDGET WITHOUT ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO PRIORITIES IS DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY TO OUR BUDGETARY AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES. DELEGATION IS ALSO AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS BUDGET LEVEL AND PRIORITIES ALONG THESE LINES IN COMMISSION II AT ITS DISCRETION.

2. AT ITS DISCRETION, USDEL MAY ALSO CONSULT WITH DG-ELECT SAOUMA ABOUT BUDGET ISSUE. DURING CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON IN SEPTEMBER, SAOUMA STRONGLY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FAO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS HAVE GROWN IN RECENT YEARS AT EXPENSE OF ORGANIZATION'S BASIC PURPOSE OF INCREASING FOOD OUTPUT. SAOUMA ASSERTED THEN THAT HE WISHED TO REDRESS THE BALANCE. IT MAY, THEREFORE, BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT IN CONSULTATION WITH SAOUMA AND KEY DELEGATES A REVISED BUDGET AT A LOWER LEVEL MORE IN LINE WITH SAOUMA'S EXPRESSED VIEWS, WHICH U.S. WOULD SUPPORT.

3. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF ITS CONTACTS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AND THE DG-ELECT, DELEGATION SHOULD NOT AGREE TO BUDGET LEVEL EXCEEDING \$157 MILLION AT 670/1 RATIO. AT TIME OF VOTE OR FORMAL STATEMENT, ASSUMING THIS REDUCTION NOT ACHIEVED, DELEGATION SHOULD STATE NEGATIVE POSITION FOR THE RECORD BASING STATEMENT, AT ITS DISCRETION, ON POINTS IN PARA 1 AND RELATED CONSIDERATIONS.

4. FYI. CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES BELIEVE THAT SOBER, REASONED OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED BUDGET LEVEL FROM FAO'S LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR WOULD NOT BE DISRUPTIVE AND THAT IT WOULD GENERALLY STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION IN ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS. FURTHERMORE, OUR DOMESTIC BUDGETARY SITUATION REQUIRES THIS POSITION. END FYI. KISSINGER

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